

11-1-2007

The BG News November 1, 2007

Bowling Green State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/bg-news>

Recommended Citation

Bowling Green State University, "The BG News November 1, 2007" (2007). *BG News (Student Newspaper)*. 7829.

<https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/bg-news/7829>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/). This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in BG News (Student Newspaper) by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.

Thursday

November 1, 2007
Volume 102, Issue 53
WWW.BGNEWS.COM

CAMPUS

Administrator uses sidewalk chalk as ads

University of Illinois administrator, dressed in a suit, chalked the walk to get students to register for a text message alert system | **Page 3**

NATION

GodTube provides religious videos

Christians remake YouTube in 'his image' and the growing Web site boasts over 150,000 registered users | **Page 5**

WASHINGTON

NASA will reveal startling survey results

NASA previously withheld info about results of an aviation survey because it feared it would upset air travelers and hurt airline profits | **Page 10**

FORUM

Superheroes do it all, even perspire

Columnist Grant Pardee writes about his sad discovery that "Spider-Man" sweats profusely | **Page 4**

SPORTS

Athlete of the week is from men's soccer

Cameron Hepple, native to the Bahamas, says his strategy for every game is to have fun, and he credits his success to this simple philosophy | **Page 7**

Falcons' swimming kicks off as they look to 2nd match

The focus is on the team's seven seniors as it tries to overcome Eastern Michigan tomorrow | **Page 7**



PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What's the worst costume you've seen so far?



KIM PETERS
Senior, Environmental Policy

"Somebody was 'HIV positive.'" | **Page 4**

WEATHER



TODAY
Sunny
High: 55, Low: 32



TOMORROW
Sunny
High: 57, Low: 33

Extreme Makeover: Mall Edition



By Kristin McKissic
Reporter

Woodland Mall, known to students as the "Small," is undergoing renovations and updates to be more competitive with the surrounding malls.

These changes are being made in order to reflect what students want, but will expand to all ages.

So far, minor interior changes have been made to make

stores more visible to customers. Canopies across the front of the mall have been removed, as well as trees that were used as decoration inside.

Christopher Holley, a sophomore who shops at the "Small" for its convenience, said, "When I go to a mall I'm going for shoes and clothes. I like a nice variety."

Students are hoping the renovations of the mall will bring about new clothing and shoe

stores that would better fit their diverse styles. "I want them to make it bigger and add more stores for every culture," Holley said.

Sophomore Jori Beams-Baker agreed and said she would like to see a better variety of stores.

There are also plans of repainting, lighting changes and playing different selections of music that can be heard while shopping. Woodland Mall officials are planning to attract

businesses and customers with the updates. Suggestions of adding Wi-Fi in a section of the mall where students can have online wireless access were also discussed.

Kelli Copeland, treasurer of Fad Watch, said, "The center area with the food court brings me down whenever I see it. It annoys me and makes me not

See **MALL** | Page 2

University financial system sees reliable start, little errors, officials say

By Nathan Robson
Reporter

After the University's new financial system went online last February, any fears about problems within the software were quickly put to rest after a nearly flawless start.

The system, Financial Management Solutions, allows for faster approval of purchases or reimbursements and other financial needs. The time that it takes for a reimbursement to be filed through the FMS payable system is two weeks, said Terry Gentry, an accounting clerk.

If there is any delay with the system, its not with FMS, but with filing the paper work to get people registered into the system. Anytime someone new needs to use the system or someone is removed, he or she has to fill out a form to be added before they can get any money.

"We get quite a few [forms] a day, it's not like we only have a handful. I have 30 to 40 right now that need to be filed into the system. It still doesn't take 30 days though," Gentry said.

If there are any other delays it's usually because there is not enough money in someone's account she said.

But outside of the delays, Maureen Ireland, assistant director of shipping receiving and property, said there have been no complaints about the system.

Sharon Swartz, director of finance reporting and analysis, said since FMS is still new, it has been undergoing constant maintenance and refinements.

"We are still learning better ways to use the system, and better ways to extract data," she said.

The new system has also allowed for easier use of financial information.

It has been used to create reports of external auditors and state boards who review the University's financial records to make sure that all the University's financial resources are being used properly.

"FMS is the backbone of our financial system. It is responsible for all of our financial information," Swartz said.

Low enrollment spurs Greek budget cuts

By Gina Potthoff
Reporter

The decrease in enrollment this year has led to more budget cuts, this time cutting the Greek Council budget by 10 percent across the board.

Greek Affairs and Residence Life is an auxiliary that provides funding for the four student governing councils on campus, which is generated based on the number of people living in residence halls, apartments and Greek houses.

Since the number of beds being filled at the University has gone down, the amount of funding has as well, said Ronald Binder, associate director of residence life and director of Greek Affairs.

This year, Greek Affairs allocated \$16,200 to be divided between the four councils, compared to \$18,000 for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Ben Forche, president of the Inter-Fraternity Council, was

GREEK COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS

- National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC): \$600
- Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC): \$500
- Panhellenic Council (Panhel): \$400
- Greek Independent Board (GIB): \$300

Information from Greek Community Programming & Operating Budget 2007-2008

informed before this semester that his council was facing a budget cut, but he didn't know by how much.

"Our budget cut wasn't that bad," he said.

The IFC's budget was cut \$500 out of the total \$1,800 but half of the budget comes from residence life, or rollover from that,

See **GREEK** | Page 2

Determining professors' paychecks

By Nathan Robson
Reporter

Every year students help decide which professors make tenure, get a pay raise or get promoted when they fill out evaluations at the end of each semester.

"We determine their salary on a merit system, and those evaluations are part of the process. We look at their teaching, service and research when making a decision," said Rodney Rodgers, dean of the College of Business Administration.

"We even do peer reviews. Other faculty will sit in someone's class and observe how they teach," Rodgers said.

Roger Thibault, associate dean of arts and sciences, said evaluating a professor is an annual process, and is crucial in determining who gets a pay raise.

As teachers gain tenure and get promoted, they become eligible for larger raises. Departments also try to keep in mind market equity adjustments and reflect pay raises accordingly, Thibault said.

But not all professors receive

the same level of pay, said Alden Craddock, professor and member of the faculty welfare committee. Some colleges in the University get paid more. A professor in human development or arts and sciences will make less than a professor in economics or accounting, he said.

An associate professor in accounting makes \$109,815 a year compared to

\$57,679 a year that an associate professor in ethnic studies makes.

The reason for the difference is attributed to supply and demand, Rodgers said. Someone with an accounting degree will make a lot more in the private market working for a bank than someone with an ethnic studies degree, and therefore that person will require a higher

See **PAYCHECKS** | Page 2



CITY
BRIEF

Police are accusing a Bowling Green woman of making false reports about being sexually assaulted last month.

Sherry L. Lee, 29, has been charged with falsification after she reported to police on Sept. 15, that she had been sexually assaulted at a Fairview Avenue address.

Lee made several statements to police and Wood County Hospital personnel claiming that she had been assaulted. But further police investigation found that the statements had been fabricated and Lee has since admitted that she lied to officers.

A falsification charge is a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and \$1,000 in fines.

CORRECTION
POLICY

We want to correct all factual errors. If you think an error has been made, call The BG News at 419-372-6966.

A story on page 3 of yesterday's BG News incorrectly stated the name of a group Jacob Smith is involved with. Smith is on the James McBride Arboretum Board.

Visit **BGNEWS.com**

GREEK

From Page 1

and the other half comes from the dues paid by the 16 social fraternities in the council.

Forche said he didn't know exactly why their budget was cut, but guessed it was because of the enrollment being down, since he heard there's a whole wing in Kreischer that's empty.

Forche said the IFC needs money to find new and innovative ways to promote scholarship, cater to their chapters, improve their public image and coordinate special events, such as Sibs and Kids Weekend or the Welcome Bash that's at the recreational center at the beginning of the school year.

President of the Greek Independent Board, Aysen Ulupinar, said people asked why the budget was cut, but Binder was very knowledgeable about the topic and explained the reasons well.

Ulupinar said the \$300 cut hasn't affected their council's major focuses, which are emphasizing multiculturalism and service through activities like Toys for Tots, but GIB did have to take money from its retreat fund for the second semester.

We got to keep academic and chapter incentives, which are the areas that are important to

us, Ulupinar said.

"It could've been worse," she said.

Over the past five years Binder has been at the University. Greek Affairs has allocated about the same amount of money to each of the four councils, even though it is supposed to be based on the size of each council, ability of the councils to raise their own resources, needs and history.

Binder said a task force made up of representatives from Greek, RSA, hall councils and members of residence life is being formed to examine future funding of these groups.

The task force will hold several meetings to generate new ways of allocating funds and will recommend them to the director of residence life.

Binder said the task force will be meeting in a week or two and they're excited because prior to now, funding has been distributed based on historical knowledge and not on the current need or merit of the organization.

He said the four presidents of the Greek councils were disappointed when they heard about the budget cuts, but they understood that less money comes from residence life when the number of students is down.

PAYCHECKS

From Page 1

salary to attract them to take a job as a professor, he said.

When his department is trying to hire a new professor, they are often competing against the private market and other universities, and they have to keep that in mind when making a competitive offer, Rodgers said.

"We are currently working on hiring a professor who is looking at another university on the East Coast and one in Texas," he said.

When making an offer, Rodgers tries to keep in mind that Bowling Green has a lower standard of living than many urban schools, and that is reflected in an offer.

But even the highest paid professors, new or old, at the University tend to be behind their peers from other Ohio universities. BGSU tends to be in the bottom third of all public schools for salaries, even with one of the highest tuition rates, Craddock said.

With an average of \$74,242, the University of Toledo ranked first for associate professor salaries. BGSU was ninth out of 15 schools, paying \$64,720.

But many professors do not teach for the salary, said Mary Ellen Benedict, an economics professor.

"There is always a small pool of people who are willing to teach. You choose among a variety of benefits when choosing a job, and for some people,

the work environment, working with students, the flexibility, are all intangible benefits that outweigh a different job," she said. "I get excited when I teach a course that I can get students to get excited about. That's a very rewarding aspect of my time."

Professors with a passion to teach are the kind of people that Rodgers wants to bring into his department and keep.

"As the gap between the private industry and University pay grows, it gets harder and harder to get and keep people," he said.

But as the University's enrollment drops, it gets harder to pay professors more.

"Tuition is where a significant amount of money for salaries comes from, and with a tuition freeze, it makes it even harder," Craddock said. "But with higher tuition you get lower enrollment."

Oneway the business department is trying to increase its salaries is through outside sources.

"A lot of it is relying more and more on the alumni base and their philanthropy until a sustainable model can be created," Rodgers said.

In the meantime, many departments will continue to offer the best education possible by hiring the people that want to be here, despite a smaller paycheck.

"They choose to teach. The opportunity to help teach and develop new talent, that's their compensation in another way."

MALL

From Page 1

want to shop because it looks terrible."

Following the completion of its renovations, Copeland hopes the mall could help her organization, which is a fashion club on campus. "Hopefully we might be able to get sponsors for our fashion show. The mall might be able to give us fashion items to discuss at our meetings," Copeland said.

Holley is excited that the "Small" is making changes. He thinks these changes are overdue. Holley said, "I just kind of settle if I go there. It's not reliable to find

the clothes I'm looking for."

Beams-Baker is ready to see new stores in the mall, claiming that she would shop there more often if it was bigger and had more stores. "I'd like to see American Apparel."

Others, like Copeland, are looking for multiple stores to join the mall. "Personally, I'd like to see Charlotte Russe, Wet seal, Forever 21 and stores like these. Nice stores that you can get something casual and something dressy from in the same store," Copeland said.

Stores were not the only issue. "A food court would probably draw more people too," Holley said.

BLOTTER

TUESDAY

12:25 A.M.

A male student was transported from Harshman Bromfield to Wood County Hospital. The underage student was drunk and bleeding.

11:49 A.M.

Blake E. Nofziger, 23, of Bowling Green, was cited for failure to maintain reasonable control of his car following a collision on Napoleon Road.

1:47 P.M.

Eight garage sale signs, each valued at \$1.50, were taken from outside an apartment complex on Colony Lane.

2:33 P.M.

Overnight, someone went through an unlocked vehicle on South Main Street. Nothing was taken.

6:53 P.M.

Someone drove off from a gas station on North Main Street without paying for \$20.50 worth of fuel.

8:47 P.M.

Sean M. Berger, 26, of Bowling Green, was cited for improper change of course after an accident on South Main Street.

9:14 P.M.

An off duty officer saw a car doing donuts in the construction zone by the Wood County Airport. When police arrived the car was already gone.

WEDNESDAY

12:21 A.M.

Scott D. Doseck, 20, of Bowling Green, was arrested for falsification and underage under the influence of alcohol and was taken to the Wood County Justice Center.

12:39 A.M.

Brett R. Monday, 20, of Findlay, Ohio, was cited for underage under the influence of alcohol at the corner of Enterprise and Court Streets.

12:50 A.M.

Aaron J. Prince, 19, of Delta, Ohio, was arrested for having an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and for underage possession of alcohol. Police saw him in a running car on North Main Street with an open can of Natural Light Beer.

1:00 A.M.

Bobby D. Ford, 19, of Garfield Heights, Ohio, was issued a civil citation for public urination in the parking lot next to Howard's Club H on North Main Street.

Make us your FIRST CHOICE and find your FIRST CHOICE!
PRIME RENTALS AVAILABLE NOW FOR
Summer and Fall 2008

**Great Selection of
Houses & Apartments
in Good Locations!**

JOHN NEWLOVE REAL ESTATE, INC.

319 E. Wooster Street, Bowling Green, OH

Located Across From Taco Bell.

RENTAL OFFICE (419) 354-2260

Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30- to 5:30 • Saturday - 8:30 to 5:00

www.johnnewlove realestate.com

*What is the role of prayer
in your everyday life?*

*In your own faith tradition,
how do you feel about the role of
prayer & faith
in the world today?*

**Have you ever considered these questions
and others about your faith?**

Join us in a meaningful dialogue about faith through our blog at
www.wgte.org/faith

On December 13, the film PRAYER IN AMERICA will air on WGTE TV. The documentary is based on author James P. Moore, Jr.'s book, One Nation Under God: The History of Prayer in America (Doubleday, 2005). Moore suggests that prayer has historically been a significant influence on the political, cultural and economic development of the United States.

*Whether or not you agree,
we want to hear from you.*

The most compelling essays contributed online by Friday, November 9, will be considered for production and broadcast on WGTE.

We are looking for diverse voices. Please consider adding yours and encouraging others to join the conversation.

www.wgte.org/faith

Funding for the PRAYER IN AMERICA television documentary and outreach campaign is provided by the John Templeton Foundation.

Spring Registration

2008

Registration begins for:

Graduate Students	October 22
Non-Degree Graduate Students	October 24
Seniors	October 30
Juniors	November 6
Sophomores	November 14
Freshmen	November 20
Guest Students	November 29

Don't miss out! See your advisor now!

Pre-Major Advising and UPAS	101 University Hall	372-8943
Arts & Sciences	205 Administration Building	372-2015
Business Administration	371 Business Administration Building	372-2747
Education & Human Development	365 Education Building	372-7372
Health & Human Services	102 Health Center	372-8242
Musical Arts	1031 Moore Musical Arts Building	372-2181
Technology	102 Technology Building	372-7581
Firelands	101 West Building	372-0676

Register using **My.BGSU.edu**

To find your exact registration day and time, go to the
Office of Registration and Records website at

www.bgsu.edu/offices/registrar

BGSU.

Office of Registration and Records
110 Administration Building
Registration Hotline 419-372-4444

Students read urgent notes on sidewalks

By Jodi S. Cohen
MCT

URBANA, Ill. — Administrator Robin Kaler needed students to register for the University of Illinois' new high-tech emergency communication system, which will use cell phone text messaging and e-mail to get the word out in the case of an urgent situation like the April shooting at Virginia Tech.

But students do not always pay attention to official mailings and postings in dorms.

So on the morning of Oct. 22, Kaler, dressed in a suit and heels, crouched down on the campus Quad and went to work with a piece of purple chalk, scrawling this message on the sidewalk: "Sign up now!!! emergency.illinois.edu."

Chalking the sidewalk has long been a favorite way for cash-strapped students to make announcements about blood drives, student government candidates or upcoming events.

On some campuses, administrators have banned the practice, calling it ugly and damaging graffiti. But for all the sophisticated technology at their fingertips, officials at Illinois recognized that a message works only if people pay attention.

And as Kaler, a colleague and three students took buckets of jumbo chalk to the crisscrossing walkways, they did indeed attract attention.

"It's funny to see someone in a suit chalking on the Quad," said senior Sally Yoon, 21, who was competing for attention as she passed out fliers about homecoming. "It's kind of a messy job."

Kaler, 46, recognized how odd it is to use this primitive medium to publicize the latest technology, in which students, faculty and staff can receive emergency alerts to three e-mail addresses and two cell phone numbers.

Those who don't sign up will have the messages sent only to the e-mail address listed in the campus directory.

"If you want to reach students, you have to use the method that's found to be most effective," said Kaler, associate chancellor for public affairs. "Talk about direct marketing: they are walking on my message as I'm writing it."

Rae Goldsmith, vice president for communications at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, said she knew of no other college where administrators chalked the sidewalks.

"Students are the most notoriously difficult group for a university to communicate with. They often don't use their university e-mail. They change cell phones," she said.

"Sidewalk chalking is a really creative way because it is using the very mechanism that students have long used to communicate with each other."

But the idea wouldn't fly at some campuses.

University of Iowa officials last month told student leaders that if they chalk the sidewalks, they could be fined the cost to clean it up, according to The Daily Iowan student newspaper.

Bishop added that he would fit in perfectly at U. of I., where he plans to apply for graduate school.

North Carolina house fire still under investigation

By Jeff Wilkinson
MCT

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The group of college friends spent much of the late-season weekend on the deck of a beach house in North Carolina, overlooking a canal.

The deck was where they talked, listened to music and danced late into the night. But investigators fear the deck also marked the starting point of a fast-moving fire that killed the seven South Carolina students and injured six more.

Six of the dead were students at the University of South Carolina; one was from Clemson. The group included high school pals from Greenville who went off to college together. Debbie Smith, mayor of Ocean Isle Beach, N.C., said officials ruled out a chime as a possible cause of the fire.

Smith said investigators told her the fire was likely accidental and started on or near the deck, which faced a canal on the west side of the house.

USC vice president for student affairs Dennis Pruitt said it

"I'm sure it [the house] was all up to code. That house slept 13, and that's how many [people] there were."

Robert Yoho | Fire Chief

"might be a month" before North Carolina investigators officially release a cause of the blaze.

Built in 2000, the six-bedroom, 2,533-square-foot house had been constructed mostly of wood and sat on stilts, according to Brunswick County property records. The exterior was sheathed with vinyl siding and the home had seven fireplaces.

Fire Chief Robert Yoho said the house was a private dwelling, not a rental cottage, and had the required smoke alarms in bedrooms and a nearby hallway. It lacked a sprinkler system, which was not required.

"I'm sure it was all up to code," he said. "That house slept 13, and that's how many there were."

Names of the victims spread quickly across the Internet, mostly on Facebook and other social Web sites. But neither

North Carolina investigators nor the university would confirm the names, even though USC President Andrew Sorensen made calls to each victim's family offering condolences and support.

Sharon Artis, a case manager with the North Carolina Chief Medical Examiner's Office, told the state the bodies arrived at the Chapel Hill facility throughout the day Monday. But Artis said the office will not release the victims' names until each is identified through dental records and other means.

The state identified the victims through other officials, family members, friends and other sources.

The victims, according to numerous sources, are:

—Justin Anderson, 19. USC sophomore; member of the SAE

fraternity; graduate of J.L. Mann Academy in Greenville.

—Travis Cale, 20. USC sophomore; member of SAE fraternity; graduate of J.L. Mann Academy.

—Lauren Mahon, 18. USC freshman; member of Delta Delta Delta sorority; graduate of Hillcrest High School in Simpsonville.

—Cassidy Pendley, 18. Freshman chemical engineering major at USC's College of Engineering and Computing; member of Delta Delta Delta sorority; graduate of Fort Dorchester High School in North Charleston; her father lives in Chapin.

—William Rhea, 18. USC freshman; graduate of Trinity Collegiate School in Darlington.

—Allison Walden, 19. Exercise science major at USC's Norman J. Arnold School of Public Health; sophomore; member of Delta Delta Delta sorority; graduate of Chagrin Falls High School outside Cleveland, Ohio.

—Emily Yelton. Sophomore at Clemson University; member of Delta Zeta sorority; graduate of J.L. Mann Academy.

CAMPUS BRIEF

Student attacked in Union parking lot

Police are still investigating the assault of a female student near a campus parking lot Tuesday night.

At about 7:15 p.m. the student left her room in McDonald North to go to her class in Olscamp when she was attacked by an unidentified male.

The victim stated the attacker walked up behind her near the Bowen Thompson East Parking lot, grabbed her by the neck and tried to force her to his car. The victim said she was threatened with a gun and that she would be killed.

The victim noticed two people walking close by and when they were close enough, she swung her leg back towards the attacker's groin and swung her elbow back in an attempt to free herself. She succeeded and fled back to her dorm room, where she called the police.

Police describe the suspect as a white male, about 6 feet tall, wearing a dark sweatshirt and dark shoes.

Police are asking anybody with information please contact the University Police Department at 372-2346.

MAKING THE MOST OUT OF A SUNNY DAY



TREVOR LEE | THE BG NEWS

JAMMING IN THE FALL: Matt Hoelter, a senior at the University majoring in VCT, plays his guitar on a beautiful afternoon on campus.

Support Dance Marathon

DANCE MARATHON



ONE TEAM. ONE DREAM.

BOWLING GREEN, OH

Wisdom Teeth For Stem Cells

today at the American Dental Association's national media conference.

We are very pleased to introduce the BGSU faculty, staff, and students to our new website!

To learn more about our doctors, our practice and our services, please visit us at:

www.BGdentistry.com



DOCTORS
PHIPPS
LEVIN
HEBEKA
& ASSOCIATES, LTD.

GENERAL DENTISTRY

970 W. Wooster St. Suite #125

Wood County Hospital Medical Building

Bowling Green, OH 43402 419-352-2569

New patients always welcome

Pamela Gehron Robey said stem cells from teeth and jawbone might be used to

TIRE SALE

FREE NITRO MAX NITROGEN WITH ANY NEW TIRE PURCHASE

TIRE SPECIAL \$20 <small>On Any 4 Tires</small>	ANTI-FREEZE FREE <small>Anti-Freeze Test</small> \$10 <small>Radiator Flush</small>	MECHANICAL 25% OFF <small>All Mechanical Service</small>	OIL CHANGE <small>Valued at \$33.98 for only</small> \$14.98 <small>with Tire Rotation*</small> <small>*SW20, SW30, or 10W20 included</small> <small>Includes FREE Inspection</small> <small>*MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS</small> <small>*TAX & DISPOSAL FEE</small>
---	--	--	--

TIREMAN **352-5788**
ACROSS FROM ALDI

Central & King 3115 King Rd. 419-842-8473	Fremont 1925 W State St 419-332-3261	Holland 7171 Orchard Cntr 419-861-1919
Maumee 532 Illinois Ave 419-893-7242	West Toledo 2779 W Central 419-479-7010	Truck & Farm 532 Illinois Ave 419-891-7973
Perrysburg 25998 N Dixie Hwy 419-873-0911	North Towne 222 W Alexis 419-476-7121	Bowling Green 999 S Main St 419-352-5788
Woodville 3725 Williston Rd 419-698-1863	South Toledo 750 S Reynolds 419-535-3033	Monroe, Michigan 1986 N Telegraph 800-498-6009
Sylvania 5832 Monroe St 419-882-8984	Franklin Park 5022 Monroe St 419-475-4671	

VISIT US ON THE WEB @ thetireman.com

hot but not smokin'

FACT: 70% of college students don't smoke.

GET THIS LIMITED EDITION TEE FOR FREE AT HOTBUTNOTSMOKIN.COM

DON'T BELIEVE THE MYTH. BELIEVE WHAT'S REAL. **DEBUNKIFY**

HOUSES! CLOSE TO CAMPUS

'08 - '09 May/Aug. Leases Now Available

Call 419-352-9392 or www.frobose rentals.com for current listing

These houses won't last long

Call TODAY!

FROBOSE RENTALS

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What's the worst costume you've seen so far?



"She looked like a trashy version of 'The Girls Next Door.'"

RON COLLIER, Senior, Integrated Social Studies



"He was dressed as Bill Nye the Science Guy."

ANGIE OLER, Freshman, Early Childhood Education



"One of my friends was a cross dresser — that has to be the worst."

JUSTIN MCBRIDE, Freshman, Adolescent/Young Adult Education



"I couldn't tell what it was, they had so many things going on."

MELINDA JONES, Freshman, VCT

VISIT US AT BGNEWS.COM

Have your own take on today's People On The Street? Or a suggestion for a question? Give us your feedback at bgnews.com.



MCT

FEMA's sad new spin on fake news



MARISHA PIETROWSKI COLUMNIST

In 2001, it was discovered that Sony Pictures created fake reviews for movies such as "The Patriot" and "A Knight's Tale." According to the BBC, practices included planting fake review quotes by nonexistent authors in advertisements and using "audience testimony" film reactions actually made by Sony Pictures staff members. Rather than dealing with an onslaught of negative reviews, the studio decided to control audience perceptions of the films. They fabricated the press the movies received in order to control it; since they couldn't beat the movie reviewers, why not join and become them? Not to be outdone by Hollywood, it appears the government is following in the entertainment industry's footsteps.

Last week, FEMA staged a press conference to discuss the government agency's handling of the wildfires in California. The conference was announced only 15 minutes before it was set to begin, meaning that members of the press could only listen by phone. However, when video was released of the press conference, people were directing questions towards Harvey Johnson, the Deputy Administrator of FEMA.

It turns out these people were actually FEMA employees acting as members of the press, asking simple ques-

tions of Johnson which could easily yield positive answers ("Are you happy with FEMA's response so far?"). This way, the agency could prevent those pesky members of the press junket from actually doing their job, possibly creating another Hurricane Katrina-style public relations nightmare for FEMA. However, through this very misguided attempt to boost their image amongst the American public, FEMA has managed to further tarnish its name.

Ever since I heard about this story, I have been trying to figure out exactly why FEMA decided to go through with such a guaranteed public relations nightmare. Chances are, had this been a press conference conducted under normal circumstances, it would have only gotten a passing mention on the evening news, with little controversy. Now FEMA has a big mess on its hands, one that could have been prevented. And FEMA is not exactly an agency that has an untarnished public relations and a good performance track record in the first place.

FEMA is clearly concerned about public image. According to Reuters U.K., positive press put out by FEMA during the immediate aftermath of Katrina made then-administrator Michael Brown quip, "I am a fashion god." I can't help but ask, who thought it would be a good idea to take an agency suffering from weak public perception, pull a stunt that shows blatant disregard for fair judgment of their actions in recent

See **MARISHA** | Page 12

There goes my... hero?



GRANT PARDEE COLUMNIST

Sitting next to Spider-Man isn't that cool after all.

I'm trying to focus on economics right now, but all I can think about is how sweaty the Spider-Man next to me is. Not glowing, not perspiring, but drenching himself in spider sweat.

When I was a boy, I could only dream of one day sitting next to Spider-Man in class. I had it all worked out: I'd ask him for help with the homework and he'd reveal his secret identity. Maybe we could get married, but that depends on society more than Spider-Man (because I think he'd say yes).

But the one thing that was definitely, definitely NOT in my boyhood fantasy of meeting Spider-Man was a glandular disorder.

Now I don't even want to meet him, frankly. I can't even be sure he is the real Spider-Man anymore.

For one thing, those muscles don't look exactly realistic, especially since one bulge on his left arm has a little bit of cotton foam spewing out. I guess that could be webbing. Maybe.

I don't remember Spider-Man's converse sneakers ever peeking out from under his boots either.

Also — and maybe I'm wrong on this — but I didn't think Spider-Man wore his costume to class. And if he did, why would he take his mask off as well? Spidey, you're ruining it for everyone.

It's just — well, I feel like if it were any day but Halloween I could trust this as being real. But I've been wrong before.

Last Halloween I remember being at a party and badly cutting my finger. There were at least three very lovely nurses at that party (who were definitely certified because they wore heels and fishnets like real nurses do), but not one offered any help.

Plus, it didn't help that my friend Tony was acting really inappropriate around the medical officials. Typical Tony, we all said.

But it ended up that only a strange cat-person was able to help my injured finger, which blew my mind because I was previously unaware of any cat-people anywhere.

Needless to say, my finger was repaired and I was able to jump back into the party and participate in a well-choreographed monster mash.

Well, I've made up my mind. As soon as this class is over, I am going to march over to Spider-Man and I'm going to ask him! I will ask him why

See **PARDEE** | Page 12

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Group's costumes were offensive, inappropriate

So, I am walking toward the building where I teach a "Native Americans in Film" class this morning when I am suddenly transported into some Twilight Zone where Indians in cotton "buckskins" and plastic beads wearing miniskirts and neon-colored chicken feathers tucked into paper headbands hang out in

face paint with pioneer women and cowboys.

It stopped me dead in my tracks. I was FURIOUS. These were not even students, which is bad enough, but MAYBE more forgivable once addressed. They were, according to my students, faculty and staff at the University. One of the students in my class was there as well, waiting for me to get there as she knew it would be, er, "problematic" for me

and for the rest of our class.

It was very difficult to contain the anger as I approached these folks. I paused in front of them long enough to tell them that what they were doing was HIGHLY offensive to me and likely an affront to all Native peoples.

How do I talk to students about racism against Indians when the very people who teach them outside my own classroom exhibit this behavior?

I did speak with my students about this briefly, barely containing the hurt and rage and confusion this caused. I think they understood.

I hope so.

— Cheryl Cash

Doctoral Student of American Culture Studies
Co-chair, BGSU Native American Unity Council

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Got something you want to say about an opinion column or news story? Here's how to get in touch with us for letters to the editor:

- E-mail us at thenews@bgnews.com.
- Drop a note into our new comment box at the Union Information Center.
- Call us at 419-372-6966.
- Come to our newsroom in 210 West Hall.

Be sure to read the submission guidelines at the bottom of this page.

You can free your mind at college, but only if you talk



LEVI JOSEPH WONDER COLUMNIST

Coming from a small high school of approximately 400 students, located in a small town of approximately 4,000 residents, I was surrounded by a typical group of very opinionated people for my four years of secondary education. Flaming liberals, young republicans, die-hard vegetarians and religious fanatics comprised the greater bulk of my graduating class of 80 students; almost everyone had an opinion.

I was (and am) no exception to this. I staunchly supported my personal political, economic

and social opinions during my high school years, and I frequently discussed them with others. Through these sessions, I learned much about how to better understand other people's perspectives on controversial issues, why people support their respective viewpoints, and how I could become a more tolerant, open-minded person in the overall process of analyzing and interpreting different takes on controversial issues.

Many heated arguments raged, and more than a few threats and profanities were exchanged between us, but I believe I learned a lot from those few scant years of person-to-person interaction and debate.

Based on my experiences at the University so far, my fellow college students retain the same capacity for debate as students of lower education levels do. They all have their own unique perspectives on many classic and contemporary issues, and they are not afraid to express their own particular beliefs (within the boundaries of reason and respect for others). I

"That person's aloof approach to the issue would indicate a case of 'It's-not-that-I'm-a-jerk-it's-just-that-I-don't-really-care-because-it-doesn't-affect-me-at-all' syndrome."

applaud this.

Unfortunately, according to my encounters with certain other students, not all of them seem to have the desire to do so.

Of course, this is only normal; not everyone enjoys casual debate and philosophy as others do. That said, it would seem that select people whom I have spoken with are loath to discuss such issues in any shape or form. The reason? It would seem they suffer from bouts of indifference.

Personally, I believe apathy, even in small doses, can numb a person to potentially mind-opening experiences. Although it is a condition which most everyone experiences at one point or another in life, college is most definitely not the ideal time to adopt such a mindset. Remember, college is an

excellent time for someone to reinvent or rediscover his or herself. Although having an apathetic attitude would guarantee little to no argument from someone on his or her part (giving the illusion of open-mindedness), that person's aloof approach to the issue would indicate a case of "It's-not-that-I'm-a-jerk-it's-just-that-I-don't-really-care-because-it-doesn't-affect-me-at-all" syndrome.

What I mean to say is this: In order to better interpret, analyze, perceive and simply understand the viewpoints of other people from differing social demographics and cultural backgrounds, it is imperative for people to define their own special viewpoints from the assorted opinions, traditions, values, theories and traits of their own specific upbringing.

By doing so, people can acquire a better sense of why and how others form their own personalized beliefs based on their lives.

However, when going about this, it is imperative for one to maintain a sense and aura of cosmopolitan quasi-neutrality towards all such opinions in general. I believe the term is known as "cautious skepticism." In doing this, one can treat all human-conjured social, political, economic and religious perspectives in the same way, seeing them for what they really are.

The University is quite a diverse educational institution. People of numerous different creeds, races, ethnicities, cultures and origins come from all over to attend classes at the University, and they bring with them their individual values and world perspectives.

With such an assortment of pupils here to study, it is of utmost importance for everyone to pay respect to other people's exclusive views, while

See **WONDER** | Page 12

THE BG NEWS

LISA HALVERSTADT, EDITOR IN CHIEF

210 West Hall
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403 | Phone: (419) 372-6966
E-mail: thenews@bgnews.com
Web site: <http://www.bgnews.com>
Advertising: 204 West Hall | Phone: (419) 372-2606

DAVE HERRERA, SENIOR EDITOR
CANDICE JONES, SENIOR EDITOR
KELLY DAY, CAMPUS EDITOR
TIM SAMPSON, CITY EDITOR
STEPHANIE GUIGOU, DESIGN EDITOR
BRIAN SZABELSKI, WEB EDITOR
KRISTEN MOONEY, COPY CHIEF
COLIN WILSON, SPORTS EDITOR
ADDIE CURLIS, PULSE EDITOR
CHRISTY JOHNSON, SPECIAL SECTIONS EDITOR
JORDAN FLOWER, PHOTO EDITOR

The BG News Submission Policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are longer pieces between 400 and 500 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. The maximum number of submissions for columns is two per month.

POLICIES: Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." Only e-mailed letters and columns will be considered for printing. All letters are subject to review for length and clarity before printing.

Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the view of **The BG News**.

Officials: Wildfires started in match accident

By Daisy Ngyuen
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Officials blamed a wildfire that consumed more than 38,000 acres and destroyed 21 homes last week on a boy playing with matches, and said they would ask a prosecutor to consider the case.

The boy admitted to sparking the fire on Oct. 21, Los Angeles County sheriff's Sgt. Diane Hecht said Tuesday. Ferocious winds helped it quickly spread.

"He admitted to playing with matches and accidentally starting the fire," Hecht said in a statement.

Police did not release the boy's name. Los Angeles County fire Capt. Michael Brown only would say yesterday that he was younger than 13.

The boy was released to his

parents, and the case will be presented to the district attorney's office, Hecht said. It was not clear if he had been arrested or cited by detectives.

Arson investigators first talked to the boy's parents on Oct. 22 after determining the blaze began the day before in the back yard of their Agua Dulce home, Brown said.

The home was not damaged in the fire, Brown said.

Investigators initially considered a downed power line as the source of the fire, but never officially listed it as the cause.

The blaze, which spread quickly through the neighborhood, was among 15 or so major wildfires that destroyed some 2,100 homes and blackened 809 square miles from Los Angeles to the Mexican border last week. Seven deaths were blamed directly on the fires, six evacuees died of natural causes



SCOURING: California Department of Forestry and ATF investigators look for clues between flags marking points of concern at one of two points of origins of the Santiago Fire.

and one person died of a fall.

Authorities arrested five people for arson during that period, but none have been linked to any of the major blazes.

All but four of the blazes are now fully contained. Firefighters yesterday continued to cut lines around the remaining fires and kept a close eye on the weather.

Man wins funeral lawsuit against church picketers

By Alex Dominguez
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Agrieving father won a \$2.9 million verdict yesterday against a fundamentalist Kansas church that pickets military funerals out of a belief that the war in Iraq is a punishment for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality.

Albert Snyder of York, Pa., sued the Westboro Baptist Church for unspecified damages after members demonstrated at the March 2006 funeral of his son, Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder, who was killed in Iraq.

U.S. District Judge Richard Bennett noted the size of the award for compensating damages "far exceeds the net worth

of the defendants," according to financial statements filed with the court.

Church members routinely picket funerals of military personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Often, they carried signs such as "Thank God for dead soldiers" and "God hates fags."

A number of states have passed laws regarding funeral protests, and Congress has passed a law prohibiting such protests at federal cemeteries.

But the Maryland lawsuit is believed to be the first filed by the family of a fallen serviceman.

The church and three of its leaders were found liable for invasion of privacy and intent to inflict emotional distress.

GodTube puts the 'fun' in fundamentalism

Christian video-sharing site called one of this year's fastest-growing Web pages

By Matt Curry
The Associated Press

PLANO, Texas — Chris Wyatt is on a mission.

Walking hastily through his cavernous fourth-floor headquarters in suburban Dallas, the founder of the Christian version of YouTube is searching for an available conference room.

He quickly passes reminders of his success: a group of customer service representatives on the phone, animated meetings in progress and extra office space that GodTube.com is preparing to move into. Finally settled, the nattily dressed former TV producer insists he is as surprised as anyone that the site was identified earlier this year by comScore as the fastest growing on the Web.

"I thought I was going to be a seminary student and then work maybe a couple hours a week," he said. "Now I'm taking online courses because I can't get over to the seminary, I'm so busy."

GodTube.com, a video-sharing site with Christian content, drew more than 4 million unique visi-

tors during October.

It maintains more than 150,000 registered users with active profiles. Plans for the future include producing entertainment programs at the site's headquarters north of Dallas.

GodTube is among religion-based Web sites that closely copy popular secular models. MyChurch.org is similar to the social networking site MySpace, and Conservapedia.com is the religious right's response to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia. Similar sites target Muslim and Jewish audiences.

Wyatt, GodTube's CEO, is reaching more people than he could hope for in a lifetime of pulpit appearances. He points out that GodTube.com users on Sunday mornings outnumber megachurch pastor Joel Osteen's congregation in Houston.



Wyatt, 38, said the GodTube venture, supported by financial partners in business and

ministry, has yet to make a profit.

He said the site earns money through banner advertising, the sale of premium services and providing data to media ministries about viewers. The site never sells personal information, he said, adding that operating the site is enormously expensive.

GodTube videos includes music, comedy and heated theological debates. Two of the most viewed include a corny rap remix called "Baby Got Book" and a 4-year-old girl reciting Psalm 23 from memory.

"Basically, whenever I realized she could recite it, I pulled out my digital camcorder and I put it on my blog," said the girl's father, Brian Mosley of Allen, Texas.



Better Ingredients.
Better Pizza.
353-PAPA
(7272)

826 S. Main

Open Late Until 3am!!
Thursday-Saturday

Prosecutor acquitted in 9/11 trial charges

By David Runk
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — A former federal prosecutor was acquitted yesterday of withholding evidence from the defense during the nation's first major terrorism trial after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The government said Richard Convertino wanted so badly to win convictions in the case that he broke the law.

But Convertino's lawyers insisted he did nothing wrong and had no reason to hide evidence against four North African men accused of operating a "sleeper" terrorist cell.

"It's a just end to a politically motivated prosecution," Convertino said after the verdict

"It's a just end to a politically motivated prosecution."

Richard Convertino | Prosecutor was read.

The jury reached its decision after less than a day of deliberations.

It also acquitted Harry Smith III, a former State Department investigator.

Convertino, 46, was accused of withholding photos of a Jordanian hospital from defense attorneys. Prosecutors alleged the photographs could have helped the defense at the 2003 trial undermine a government

argument about how well a surveillance sketch of the hospital matched reality.

The sketch was found in an apartment used by part of the suspected Detroit cell.

Prosecutors said Convertino also allowed Smith to testify that it would be difficult to get photos of the hospital, even though Convertino had such photos, and Smith knew the photos existed.

Government lawyer Daniel Schwager said prosecutors "believe in the case and the importance to the system and respect the jury's verdict."

The defense said the government didn't prove that Convertino intentionally withheld the photos and insisted no conspiracy existed.

NOW LEASING FOR 2008 EARLY BIRD DEPOSIT SPECIALS AVAILABLE

CAMPBELL HILL APARTMENTS	FRAZEE AVE. & EAST MERRY	COLUMBIA COURTS	HEINZ (424 Frazee 818 & 808 N. Enterprise)	MERCER MANOR APARTMENTS
2 & 3 BEDROOM TOWNHOUSES	REMODELED / 2 BEDROOMS	3 BEDROOMS	3 BEDROOMS	3 BEDROOMS
◆ Furnished ◆ 1 Half & 1 Full Bath ◆ Full Basement ◆ Washer/Dryer ◆ Close to Campus ◆ Plenty of Parking ◆ Air Conditioned ◆ 2 BGSU Shuttle Stops ◆ 2 Laundromats ◆ Microwaves ◆ Dishwashers	◆ 2 Full Bathrooms ◆ Newer Kitchen Cabinets ◆ Tile Floors ◆ Newer Appliances ◆ Newer Carpet ◆ Newer Windows ◆ Furnished Units Available ◆ Close to Campus ◆ Laundry on Site	◆ 2 Full Bathrooms ◆ Air Conditioning ◆ Furnished ◆ Spacious ◆ Close to Campus ◆ FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ◆ Fireplaces in Select Units ◆ Laundry On-Site	◆ 2 Full Bathrooms ◆ Furnished ◆ Air Conditioning ◆ FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ◆ FIREPLACES ◆ Laundry on-site ◆ Close to Campus ◆ Plenty of Parking ◆ Microwave, Dishwasher & Garbage Disposal	◆ 2 Full Bathrooms ◆ Air Conditioning ◆ FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ◆ FIREPLACES ◆ Laundry on-site ◆ BGSU Shuttle Stop ◆ Furnished ◆ Close to Campus ◆ Plenty of Parking ◆ Microwave, Dishwasher & Garbage Disposal

GREENBRIAR, INC. 419-352-0717 www.greenbriarrentals.com

Cats have been added to list of decoded DNA

Researchers deciphered the DNA of a cat named Cinnamon, which scientists say may aid in disease treatment

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An Abyssinian cat from Missouri, named Cinnamon, has just made scientific history. Researchers have largely decoded her DNA, a step that may aid the search for treatments for both feline and human diseases.

The report adds cats to the roughly two dozen mammals whose DNA has been unraveled, a list that includes dogs, chimps, rats, mice, cows and of course, people.

Why add cats? They get more than 200 diseases that resemble human illnesses, and knowing the details of their genetic makeup should help in the search for vaccines and treatments, researchers say. The list includes a cat version of AIDS, SARS, diabetes, retinal disease and spina bifida, said Stephen J. O'Brien of the National Cancer Institute.

The new work is reported in the November issue of the journal Genome Research by a team

including O'Brien and colleague Joan Pontius. It covers about two-thirds of the DNA of Cinnamon, a research cat that lives at the University of Missouri in Columbia; more complete results are expected next year, O'Brien said.

Richard Gibbs of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, who led a team that decoded the DNA of a monkey called the rhesus macaque, called the new work "a good outline" of cat DNA. Scientists are looking forward to the complete version, which will be useful for making detailed comparisons to the DNA of other animals, he said.

The full complement of an organism's DNA is called its genome. In cats, as in people, it's made up of nearly 3 billion building blocks. The sequence of those blocks spells out the hereditary information, just as strings of letters spell out sentences. Decoding a genome, which is called sequencing, means identifying the order of the building blocks.



AP PHOTO

CAT DNA: Scientists say that deciphering this cat's DNA is a step that may help researchers find new treatments for both feline and human diseases.

Unrecognized brain abnormalities can be common, deadly

By Mike Stobbe
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — One in 60 older people may be walking around with benign brain tumors and don't know it. Even more may have bulging blood vessels in the head that could burst.

These results come from a surprising new Dutch study that finds brain abnormalities are not all that uncommon.

It's not clear how alarming this is. Most of the abnormalities hadn't caused any symptoms, though some were potentially life-threatening.

But the findings may have implications for patients in the future: As more of these abnormalities are spotted with more sophisticated equipment during routine medical tests, some doctors may urge patients to have surgery or other treatment as a precaution. Or some patients may push doctors to fix the potential problem.

"It's very scary to learn there's something wrong in your head," said Dr. Aad van der Lugt, an associate professor in radiology at Erasmus MC University Medical Center in Rotterdam and a co-author of the study published in today's New England Journal of Medicine.

The study is based on MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging scans of 2,000 healthy adults with an average age of 63. They were participating in a study to look at the causes and consequences of age-related brain changes. The new paper's findings were incidental to the main research.

Participants who needed additional evaluation or treatment were referred to specialists. None of the brain tumors spotted by the MRIs required surgery, the researchers said.

Scans are increasingly being used, raising the chances that abnormalities will be spotted. About 20 million MRIs are done worldwide each year on the head, according to GE Healthcare, which makes scanners.

Even so, physicians do not

"There's no evidence that screening MRIs of the brain are valuable."

Carolyn Meltzer | Chairwoman

recommend routine MRIs to look for brain problems in the way that people now get mammograms or colonoscopies.

"There's no evidence that screening MRIs of the brain are valuable," said Dr. Carolyn Meltzer, chairwoman of radiology at the Emory University School of Medicine.

The Dutch scientists found that 145 people — or 7.2 percent — had some dead brain tissue caused by a loss of blood flow. These are sometimes called silent strokes and usually don't result in a loss of speech or motion.

However, a patient who's had a silent stroke may be more likely to have another, more serious stroke, said Dr. Greg Joseph, a Charlotte, N.C., neuroradiologist who is part of a doctors group that reads 100 brain scans a day. Finding silent strokes allows doctors to prescribe medications or other measures that could prevent future problems, he said.

Another 32 people in the study — or 1.6 percent — had brain tumors. All but one were non-cancerous, but even benign tumors can kill if they grow and shut down vital brain functions. Doctors sometimes treat these, or do annual MRI scans to watch for signs of growth.

Another 35 people — or 1.8 percent — had bulging blood vessels, called aneurysms. Blood vessels that burst can cause serious strokes. However, all but five aneurysms found in the study were small and not considered dangerous.

The Dutch participants were mostly white, middle class and healthy; whether the same brain abnormalities would be found in other groups of people isn't known, the researchers said.

*Being single and pregnant
is tough*

getting help isn't

1-800-395-HELP

www.knowledgeisempowering.com

Foundation
for Life



A Place to call Home

Resort style living without the resort style price tag!



- Private shuttle to & from campus
- 2 resort style pools & 2 oversized Jacuzzis
- 3 high pressure tanning domes
- HUGE 24 hr fitness center
- Washer & dryer in every apartment
- Free internet in every bedroom

The Enclave
419.353.5100



706 Napoleon Rd. Bowling Green • www.collegeparkweb.com



SIDELINES



HOCKEY

Former BG goalie Sigalet called up to NHL

Boston Bruins General Manager Peter Chiarelli announced yesterday that former BG goalie Jordan Sigalet was called up to the team from the Providence Bruins of the AHL due to a knee injury to their starting goalie.

COMING FRIDAY

The BG News football program

Good for information previewing Friday's game at the Doyt against Akron at 7 p.m.

ONLINE

The BG News sports blog

Be sure to check out The BG News sports blog for extra information on all of your favorite BG teams. The blog is also good for up-to-date info and stats for every BG football game.
<http://www.bgnewssports.blogspot.com>

SCHEDULE

TODAY

Men's basketball: vs. Wayne State (exhibition); 7 p.m.
Women's soccer: at Toledo; 3 p.m.

OUR CALL

Today in Sports History

1992—New York Jet Al Toon becomes the 10th NFL receiver to catch a pass in 100 straight games.
1990—Sandra Miller is awarded \$100 for Mike Tyson fondling her breasts.
1959—Jacques Plante becomes the first NHL goalie to wear a mask.
1924—The first NHL franchise, the Boston Bruins, is formed.

The List

The NBA season is always exciting and is fully underway. There are a lot of stars in the league, but today we're narrowing down the field to the five frontrunners for the 2008 MVP award:

1. Dirk Nowitzki:

After getting humiliated by the Warriors in last year's playoffs, Dirk should have a fantastic season.

2. Tim Duncan:

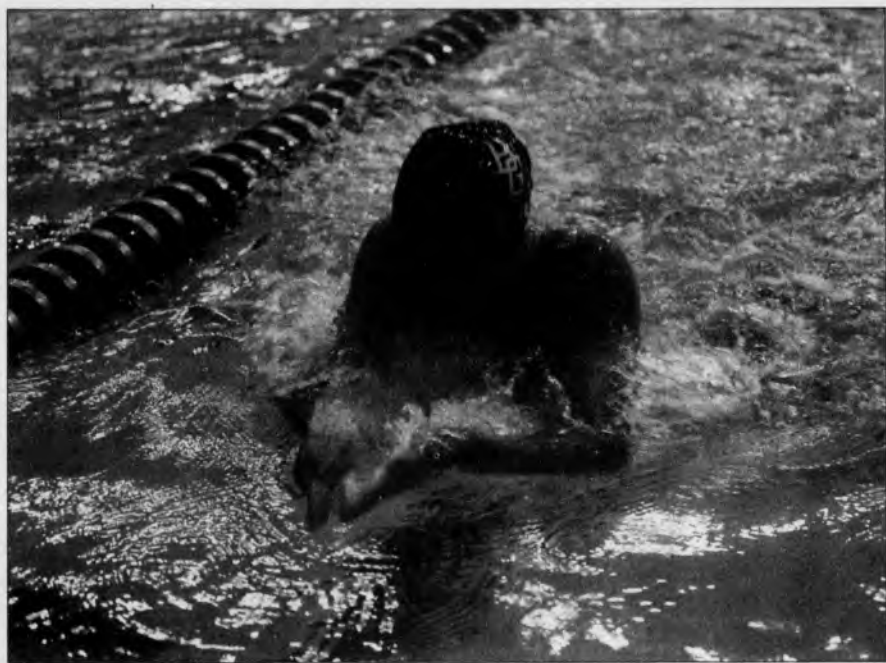
Always reliable. Always dependable. Usually always unguardable.

3. Kevin Garnett: The change in scenery should mean some big numbers.

4. Kobe Bryant: The best all-around player in the NBA, hands down.

5. LeBron James: With an improved jumper, he'll be a beast offensively.

Seniors' last strokes



JORDAN FLOWER | THE BG NEWS

IN THE WATER: Senior Christina Vaca (above) said she will miss the team and being able to put her training to use when her career is over.

Seven BG swimmers are entering the home stretch of their college careers

By Andrew Harner
Reporter

It's the beginning of the end as tomorrow evening marks the beginning of the last Mid-American Conference season for the seven seniors on BG's swimming and diving team.

"This year has already been hard for me," one of BG's three captains Kim Albin said. "Swimming has been a part of my life for 15 years, and for it to be gone like that is a life transition."

"Not being able to see the girls every single day is not going to be the same," senior Christina Vaca said.

Despite the emotion attached to their final season, the seniors are ready to get things going and put all their hard work to use.

"The beginning of the season

is always the hardest," Vaca said. "But when you finally get to put your training to use is when it starts to get really fun."

The seven seniors are a vital part of the team, according to coach Keri Buff, who said the team will appreciate every meet they have with them and that they are a big part of what BG swimming and diving is about.

The Falcons will travel tomorrow to swim against the two-time defending MAC champions, Eastern Michigan.

"You train to swim your best, so why not race against the best?" Vaca said. "It's a great way to put all of our training to use immediately."

The Falcons also traveled to EMU last year for a dual meet, but lost nine of 16 races in a 168-128 loss.

So far this year, EMU is 2-0

after defeating non-conference opponents Wisconsin-Milwaukee (134-97) and Wayne State (145-87).

This year, Albin said she believes BG will be able to keep up with EMU despite the fact that they are expected to again be the best MAC team.

"Knowing that this year we are going to be able to hold with them is a positive feeling," Albin said.

On Saturday, BG will move south to Ball State for a dual meet in BSU's tough home waters.

Last season, the Falcons swam to just five wins against BSU in a 190-110 losing effort at their own pool, and Buff expects a similar challenge this season.

"Ball State swims really well in their home pool," Buff said. "It'll be a great test to our team."

The Stretch Run: Senior Swimmers at BG this year...

Number of seniors on this year's team: 7

Kimberly Albin: Competes in Fly, Breast, IM.

Jill Auer: Competes in Diving.

Michael Carriaga: Competes in the Fly, Spt. Free, IM.

Lisa Hipp: Competes in the Spt. Free and the Fly.

Brit O' Connor: Competes in the Backstroke, Freestyle.

Christina Vaca: Competes in the Breast, IM, Free.

Jennifer Wright: Competes in the Freestyle, Backstroke.

Placement in last meet: First, Tom Stubbs Relays.

Next meet: At Eastern Michigan tomorrow.

Next home meet: Friday, Nov. 9, against Ohio University.

MAC Championships: Feb. 20-23 in Buffalo, NY.

These Browns are survivors... of their own past



The 2007 Cleveland Browns are survivors.

Yep, I said it. Survivors. It took a while to come up with one word that could describe the seven games they've played so far this season, but after watching their latest win over the Rams on Sunday, it hit me. Survivors.

Think about it. There are so many examples in only seven games.

Let's take it from the top. Week one against the Steelers was a classic "New Browns era" game. The team all Cleveland fans love and have suffered through for the last nine years came out and started the year on the same note they always have—losing big time to the team who used to be their biggest rival.

Charlie Frye's performance was so incredibly awful he didn't last the entire game. Then Derek Anderson came in and was equally bad. Collectively, they stunk so horribly that the few fans who weren't screaming for Brady Quinn to get playing time actually may have been wondering if Tim Couch was available as a backup option.

The defense was gouged in every way possible, and the offense moved continually backwards. Same old, same old.

With fans bracing for another four-win season, something miraculous happened; something that hasn't happened since the 2002 playoff year or the days of Bernie Kosar —

See **COLUMN** | Page 8

Browns have one-two-three punch at receiver position

By Tom Withers
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — One's comfortable in a blue collar. One's an NFL blue blood. One's "Go Blue" all the way.

Cleveland teammates Joe Jurevicius, Kellen Winslow and Braylon Edwards have more than a color scheme in common, though. As the primary targets for where-did-he-come-from quarterback Derek Anderson, the talented trio may be the biggest reason the Browns (4-3) are one of the league's biggest surprises.

Edwards down the sideline. Winslow over the middle. Jurevicius in the clutch.

"We're a heckuva 1-2-3 punch," Edwards said.

A haymaker Anderson can land on opposing defenses, as the St. Louis Rams found out last Sunday.

In Cleveland's 27-20 win, Anderson, whose 17 touchdown passes are second only to Tom Brady's 30, threw two TDs to Edwards, one to Winslow and hooked up with Jurevicius on five passes — three for first downs — as the Browns rallied from a 14-0 deficit to give them back-to-back wins for the first time since 2003.

Impressive numbers. Impressive guys.

The 6-foot-3 Edwards gives Anderson a speedy wideout who can outjump cornerbacks in the end zone. The 6-foot-4, 250-pound Winslow can outrun most linebackers, and cornerbacks are too small to handle him. And the 6-foot-5 Jurevicius gives the 6-foot-6 Anderson a consistent route runner with great hands.



TOM GANNAM | AP PHOTO

WEAPONS: Winslow (80) and Edwards are two of Cleveland's receiving leaders.

"He's like me running routes," Anderson quipped. "He's a little faster, though."

On any given play, Anderson can wing it any of them, any time. Two targets are adequate. Three is ideal.

"It makes teams understand that we're not just going to throw it to Braylon every play," Anderson said. "We're not just going to throw it just to Kellen on every play. It makes them defend the entire field."

In no time, Edwards is quickly becoming one of pro football's elite receivers.

He has 37 catches for 669 yards — third in the AFC — and nine touchdowns, including five in the past two games. With nine games left, the former No. 3 overall pick from Michigan

See **BROWNS** | Page 8

Athlete of the Week: Cameron Hepple, BG soccer

By Pete Schramm
Reporter

Cameron Hepple's passion for the game of soccer has led to some very impressive statistics this season.

Hepple, a third-year sophomore on the BG men's soccer team, has tallied 4 goals and 2 assists this season, and he credits that success to a classic, but simple, strategy.

"When I step on the field, I just try to have fun because I know if I have fun, it will be a good game," Hepple said.

This year's success is a welcome sight for Hepple after two years at BG, which were not always easy. After arriving on campus in the fall of 2005 ready to play soccer, he was held out of play due to complications with his NCAA paperwork.

As a native of the Bahamas, Hepple came to BG not knowing anyone, and on top of that, he was forced to go without playing the game he loved for an entire year.

"I came out on the first day of the pre-season, and they said I couldn't train," he said.

"During that time it was really depressing," Hepple said. "I was upset all the time and I was in bad moods all the time because I came all this way and I wasn't playing the sport I love."

Hepple was also stuck in a much different environment from home. "It was a tough transition because I didn't have soccer to calm me down, I just had school," Hepple said. "I didn't really know anyone, so I was basically by myself the whole year."



BG NEWS FILE PHOTO

FOR LOVE OF THE GAME: Hepple's strategy for every game is to just have fun.

"When I step on the field I just try to have fun because I know if I have fun, it will be a good game."

Cameron Hepple | BG soccer

In 2006, Hepple was able to play on the team, but was forced to play as a defender as opposed to his natural position of forward. He was glad to be playing soccer, but was still not 100 percent comfortable.

As time went on, Hepple made more friends and started

becoming accustomed to BG. This year he made the switch back to the forward position, sending his confidence soaring and his numbers through the roof.

"It's gotten better over the years," Hepple said. "I've met a lot of interesting people, and I've made a lot of friends, especially on the team. I feel more confident now, too, because I'm playing in the position I like."

Hepple's success as a Falcon is not his only success of the year, however, as this fall he played for the Bahamian National Soccer Team. Playing

See **HEPPLE** | Page 8

U.N. urges truce for all nations during Olympics

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. General Assembly yesterday urged all nations to observe a truce during the Beijing Olympics next summer to enable all athletes to compete and help build "a peaceful and better world through sport."

A resolution adopted by the 192-nation world body recalled the ancient Greek tradition of ekecheiria, or "Olympic Truce," citing it as a model for encouraging a peaceful environment, ensuring safe passage for athletes and mobilizing "the youth of the world to the cause of peace."

The truce covers Beijing's Olympic Games set for Aug. 8-24 and the following Paralympic Games on Sept. 6-17.

The General Assembly revived the call for an Olympic Truce in 1993 after an appeal from the International Olympic Committee allowed athletes of warring Yugoslavia to participate



DEAL: U.N. secretary-general Ban Ki-moon shakes hands with Jacques Rogge of the I.O.C.

in the 1992 Barcelona Games.

According to the IOC's Web site, the General Assembly has unanimously called for a truce during each Olympics since then. But while the modern Olympics have been suspended only for the two world wars, the peaceful competitions have not halted smaller-scale conflicts.

IOC President Jacques Rogge

and sports officials from a number of nations were in the General Assembly chamber for the adoption of the resolution, which was co-sponsored by 182 countries. It was approved by consensus.

Liu Qi, president of the Beijing Organizing Committee, introduced the resolution, saying that "at its very heart lies the pledge to safeguard world peace

and promote common development of mankind, while at the same time upholding the Olympic spirit of swifter, higher, stronger."

"Unfortunately, regional conflicts and local turbulences still occur, making our quest for world peace more of an uphill journey," he said. "The Olympic Games may not change the world overnight, but we have every reason to expect that the Olympic Truce ... will continue to inspire the world in striving for lasting peace and common prosperity."

The resolution urges countries to cooperate with the IOC "in its efforts to use sport as an instrument to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the Olympic Games period."

It also urges sports organizations "to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and world levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony."

HEPPLE

From Page 7

for his country is something Hepple takes great pride in doing, and said the experience was one unlike any other he has ever experienced.

"I love playing for my country and representing my country everywhere I go," Hepple said. "When I first found out I made it (on the team), words couldn't explain how I felt."

"Even though we lost, it was just a totally different type of soccer," he said.

While playing for his national team, Hepple played in some very harsh environments and against some of the world's top players. He experienced all walks of life, such as an instance when the team traveled to Haiti for a game, and was escorted through raucous crowds to the stadium by police officers armed with AK-47s and bullet proof vests.

"It was a culture shock in every way," he said. "It was crazy because people were shouting and screaming at us that we were going to lose and everything."

"We played Haiti and lost dramatically in a capacity filled

stadium with 20,000 fans. I've never experienced anything like it with that many people and the chants and everything, it was crazy," he said.

Unfortunately, playing for his country meant missing time on the field as a Falcon, but when he returned, he picked up right where he left off. Since his return just five games ago, Hepple has scored twice, including once last Saturday in the Falcons' 4-1 trouncing of Western Michigan.

Still, with one regular season game left before the Mid-American Conference Tournament, Hepple is staying focused on the tasks ahead. "We have to beat (Northern Illinois), then go strong into the MAC Tournament and win that, then go into the NCAA [Tournament]."

"I don't see any reason why we can't do that, because on any given day, we can beat any team in the country," Hepple said.

Hepple and the rest of the soccer team will take the field this Friday at 1 p.m. for their final regular season match of the year against NIU. With a win, the team would put itself in prime position for a home play-in game in the MAC Tournament.

COLUMN

From Page 7

The Browns came back the next week and notched a decisive win. Derek Anderson, Braylon Edwards, Jamal Lewis and Kellen Winslow all had coming out parties, and the offensive line held its own in the 51-45 win over the Bengals.

It's not like the Browns never win games, but something about that win felt different from the rest. The feeling? That maybe this would be a year where the team would appear to learn from its mistakes and survive its schedule. So far, it has.

A disheartening setback against the Raiders showed the team that you have to take every game very seriously, even if you're almost positive you can and will win. In the past, the Browns wouldn't have learned this lesson. This doesn't seem to be one of those years.

Against the Ravens in week

four, the team played brilliantly in all facets and won. The Oakland loss was a distant memory, and the players were actually gaining confidence and not questioning the coaching. At 2-2, the team was on a roll.

A loss to the Patriots on the road a week later was nothing special. Everyone loses to the Patriots. But so far this year the Browns have played New England the toughest out of any other team. The players were growing up and buying into the idea that no game was unwinnable.

In the last two games, the Browns beat the Dolphins and the Rams back-to-back, the first time the team has accomplished the feat of two wins in a row since 2003. In both games, the offense was highly effective.

At 4-3 and over .500 by this point in the season for the first time since 2002, the Cleveland Browns are surviving.

Braylon Edwards has survived being unhappy with the coaches and the team and is

now a leader who owns up to mistakes, such as his Dwayne Rudd-esque helmet toss on Sunday. His game has taken off, too.

Kellen Winslow has survived more injuries than can be counted on 10 hands, and has still managed to be one of the NFL's most productive tight ends.

Derek Anderson has survived inconsistency and is now one of the top passers in the league.

As a team, the Browns have survived the pre-conceived Cleveland notion that the team was going to be bad again and that a shot at contention was too far out of reach. The last nine years, that seems to have been the feeling all the time.

This team is young, hungry and willing to do whatever it takes to win a game. And it looks like it finally believes it can win, unlike so many other rosters in the past.

The Cleveland Browns just look like a different team this year — a team of survivors.

BROWNS

From Page 7

is just four TD catches shy of Gary Collins team record (13 in 1963).

"He's playing like a top receiver," Browns coach Romeo Crennel said. "We need him to continue to do that."

There's no reason to think he won't maintain a high-level of play. For the most part, Edwards has matured and finally seems to have embraced the team-first concept. Following Sunday's win, Edwards was quick to point out that he wouldn't have been open on several plays if not for Jurevicius drawing coverage.

"We complement each other real nice," Edwards said, "and we love playing with each other."

Winslow has 31 catches for 532 yards, and like Edwards, the 24-year-old, who missed most of two seasons with injuries, is more focused on reviving the Browns than following his Hall of Fame father's footsteps to Canton.

"We're playing so well as a team," Winslow said. "We're not worried about the indi-



TOM GANNAM | AP PHOTO

SCORE: Braylon Edwards (17) celebrates a touchdown catch during Sunday's game.

vidual accolades. The whole team is playing well. But we have a lot of work to do."

If that's the case, then sign Jurevicius up.

The veteran signed with the Browns as a free agent before last season, a chance to play for the team he grew up rooting for. However, Jurevicius' homecoming wasn't a happy one in 2006 as he missed three games with injuries and made just 40 catches as a sometimes-forgotten part of the offense.

But the 32-year-old has been a Joe-to-guy for Anderson. Of Jurevicius' 20 catches, 15 have come on third down with three of them for TDs. A

consummate team player, he understands his role and relishes it.

"That's where I've made my money in the NFL, on third down," said Jurevicius, who played on Super Bowl teams with New York, Tampa Bay and Seattle. "I'm the blue-collar, dirty-work guy. You know that 'Dirty Jobs' show? That's what I want to be."

"I've always felt that on a football team guys have to realize their roles."

Cleveland's Big Three of Edwards, Winslow and Jurevicius can cause matchup problems all over the field for defenses.

1 DAY

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON...

GRIT IRON

BOWLING GREEN FOOTBALL

FALCONS vs. AKRON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 - 7:30pm

DOYT PERRY STADIUM

Show your Falcon Pride and join us to pack The Doyt under the Friday night lights on ESPNU !!!

877-BGSU TICKET | BGSUFALCONS.COM

GAME PRESENTING SPONSOR **FIFTH THIRD BANK**

GET IN THE GAME

MECCA

1045 N. Main 7B
Bowling Green, Ohio
419-353-5800
www.meccabg.com

Management Inc.

Student Housing

meccabg.com

The BG News has 3 spring openings for qualified students to work in part-time selling

Got Sweet Skills?

Benefits of the Job

- Real World Experience
- Resume Builder
- Pay based on commission
- Flexible hours
- Fun atmosphere

Perferred Candidates

- So. or Jr. Marketing or IPC major
- Own transportation
- Detail oriented
- Interested in advertising or sales career

Apply in person
Pick up application at 204 West Hall
Bring resume if available

8 die in Russian bus bomb incident, attackers unknown

By Mike Eckel
Associated Press

MOSCOW — A strong bomb shredded a passenger bus yesterday, killing eight people and injuring more than 60 in a central Russian city known for gang violence.

One official speculated the blast in Togliatti was a terrorist attack, but others said that was only one possibility.

They said investigators were also looking into whether it resulted from a turf battle between criminals or even the careless handling of explosives.

Police in the Volga River city also weren't immediately sure whether the bomb was hidden inside or beneath the bus or carried on by a passenger, officials said.

With parliamentary elections coming up in December, the blast raised fears of another

round of violence like that which has occurred before past elections.

"Due to [the blast's] character, its consequences, the main version being considered is a terrorist attack," Yuri Rozhin, head of a local branch of Russia's Federal Security Service, the main KGB successor agency, said in a televised statement.

But President Vladimir Putin's envoy to the Volga River region said other theories were also being considered.

"A terror attack is a likely theory, but not the main one," envoy Alexander Kononov was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Kononov cited the possibility that someone may have been carelessly and dangerously carrying explosives, and he said investigators were also looking for links to gang rivalries in the city.

Togliatti is headquarters to Russia's largest carmaker, AvtoVAZ, and the city has a reputation for gang violence as varying groups have competed for control of the lucrative state-owned factory.

The company could not say whether any factory workers were among the victims.

The green bus stood in the middle of the street, its windows blown out and roof partially peeled back, while paramedics attended to people with bloody faces and legs.

Valery Matkovsky, a local emergency official, said eight people died and 53 suffered burns and shrapnel wounds. Russian media said a child was among the dead, and Kononov later raised the injury toll to 63.

The explosion, which broke windows in nearby apartment buildings, occurred near a bus stop in the city center during



AP PHOTO

BUS BLOWS UP: The debris from the explosion of a passenger bus in Togliatti, Russia, has investigators baffled. The bomb could have been unintentionally set off.

the morning rush hour. Some college students had left the bus at the stop just seconds before the blast, and about 20 of them were among the injured, NTV reported.

"If it had gone off just a minute earlier, it would have been much, much worse," said Vadim Blagodarny, a 20-year-old photographer.

Parents forced to sacrifice children amid flood



RAMON ESPINOSA | AP PHOTO

TROPICAL STORM FLOODING: People stand in a flooded street of Santo Domingo.

By Jose Monegro
The Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Tropical Storm Noel triggered mudslides and floods in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, pushing the death toll to 60 on yesterday and forcing some parents to choose which of their children to save from the surging waters.

The storm lurched out of Cuba and stalled over the ocean, but was projected to skirt Florida and batter the Bahamas, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

A tropical storm watch was issued for parts of southeast Florida.

With rain still falling two days after the storm hit, rescuers were struggling to reach communities cut off by flooding on the island of Hispaniola.

As they did, they found a rising toll of death and damage — at least 41 dead in the Dominican Republic, 18 in Haiti and one in Jamaica.

Floods inundated the small town of Bonao, forcing Charo Vidal into a tree late Tuesday.

She watched her neighbor struggle to do the same nearby, clutching infant twins while she climbed as the waters swept an older daughter away.

"She couldn't take care of all three," Vidal said. "That is something very significant, to have a child snatched from your hands and you cannot do anything for them."

A man who carried his 6-year-old son on his back also lost him

to the flood, Vidal said.

"The child said, 'Daddy, I'm slipping. Daddy, I'm slipping,'" Vidal said.

"A lot of people had to choose between losing one child and losing another one," said Liony Batista, a project manager for Food for the Poor, an international Christian relief organization.

Batista said 200 homes were destroyed in Bonao alone.

At least 50,500 Dominicans fled their homes, 12,000 of which were damaged, said Luis Antonio Luna, head of the Emergencies Commission.

Flooding also forced the evacuation of about 1,000 prisoners from a prison north of the Dominican capital.

Luna said officials were trying to reach dozens of isolated communities, but bad weather, a lack of helicopters and damage to bridges and highways slowed rescue efforts.

Monica Segura, 28, and her family abandoned their riverside home Tuesday when water rushed in. They fled with some 200 other people to a sports complex in the Dominican town of Barahona.

"I don't even know how I'm alive," she said. "I lost everything. The only thing that I could save was the clothes I was wearing."

In neighboring Haiti, floods rushed through houses in the Cite Soleil slum, carrying away a 3-year-old boy as relatives frantically shouted for help and tried unsuccessfully to reach him through the muddy, debris-filled water.

Myanmar monks continue to protest

Buddhist monks take to the streets for the first time since the crackdown last month

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — More than 100 Buddhist monks marched in northern Myanmar for nearly an hour yesterday, the first public demonstration since the government's deadly crackdown last month on pro-democracy protesters, several monks said.

The monks in Pakokku shouted no slogans, but one monk told the Democratic Voice of Burma, a Norway-based short-wave radio station and Web site run by dissident journalists, that the demonstration was a continuation of the protests in September.

"We are continuing our protest from last month as we have not yet achieved any of the demands we asked for," the monk told Democratic Voice of Burma.

"Our demands are for lower commodity prices, national reconciliation and immediate release of [opposition leader] Aung San Suu Kyi and all the political prisoners," said the monk, who was not identified by name.

He said they had little time to organize so the march was small but "there will be more

organized and bigger protests soon."

The demonstrations in Yangon last month numbered up to 100,000 people and were crushed when troops fired on protesters Sept. 26-27. The crackdown left at least 10 people dead by the government's count, though opposition groups say as many as 200 people may have been killed. The military junta's crushing move drew international condemnation.

Pakokku, a center for Buddhist learning with more than 80 monasteries about 390 miles northwest of the commercial center of Yangon, was the site of the first march last month by monks as they joined — and then spearheaded — the biggest anti-government protests in nearly two decades.

"We are continuing our protest from last month as we have not yet achieved any of the demands we asked for."

Unidentified protester | Monk

The protests originally started Aug. 19, when ordinary citizens took to the streets to vent anger after the government hiked fuel prices as much as 500 percent. The rallies gained momentum when Buddhist monks in Pakokku joined the protests in early September.

Reports that troops had beaten protesting monks in Pakokku on Sept. 6 rallied monks around the country to join the burgeoning marches.

Yesterday, the monks started out at Pakokku's Shwegu Pagoda, marching for nearly an hour and chanting Buddhist prayers without incident. They then returned to their respective monasteries, two monks said in telephone interviews, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Second recall for lead-tainted tot's toys

WASHINGTON (AP) — Toys "R" Us recalled about 16,000 Chinese-made Elite Operations toys because of lead contamination, the Consumer Product Safety Commission announced yesterday.

The military-style toys are recalled because their surface paints contain excessive levels of lead, which is toxic if ingested by young children. Under current regulations, children's products found to have more than 0.06 percent lead accessible to users are subject to a recall.

This is the second recall of lead-tainted children's products for Toys "R" Us this month. On Oct. 4, the company recalled about 15,000 Totally Me! Funky Room Decor Sets, because surface paints on the back of the decorating kits' mirrors contained high levels of lead.

Yesterday's recall included four Elite Operations toy sets: the Command Patrol Center, the Barracuda Helicopter, the Super Rigs set and a three-pack of 8-inch figures. No other Elite Operations toys are included in the recall.

The toys were sold at Toys "R" Us stores around the country and on toysrus.com between July and October. They can be returned to any Toys "R" Us store for a full refund or store credit.

For more information, call 800-869-7787 or visit <http://www.toysrus.com> or <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

Want to Advertise in THE BGNEWS... call 419.372.2605 to speak to a representative today.

Dnt B left out.

Sign up 4 the BGSU txt msg alert system.

AlertBG

BGSU Text Message Alert System

Provided by e2Campus



FALL EXPO
Bright Beginnings Preschool
Sat., Nov 3, 2007 • 1-5 p.m.
315 S. College (St. Mark's)
Join us for a holiday shopping experience like you've never seen! 20+ home-based businesses available with products to sell. Participate in a raffle with prizes from local businesses. A great and easy way to do your holiday shopping!

Semester Leases

ATTENTION BG!
SPRING LEASES NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2008!

GREENBRIAR, INC.
352-0717
445 E. WOOSTER
www.greenbriarrentals.com

Democrats oppose Mukasey's confirmation

Bush's potential attorney general refuses to change stance on controversial torture technique of waterboarding

By Laurie Kellman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Prospects for Michael Mukasey's confirmation as the nation's 81st attorney general dimmed yesterday after he again refused to equate waterboarding with torture and more Democrats on a key committee announced they would vote against him.

Freshman Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., announced from the Senate floor that he would oppose Mukasey's confirmation.

The retired federal judge's refusal to say that the interrogation technique is "unconditionally wrong" would leave open the possibility that U.S. agencies could cross a moral and legal line and use it on detainees, Whitehouse said.

He laid the blame for Mukasey's answer at President Bush's feet.

"If we allow the president of the United States to prevent or to forbid a would-be attorney general of the United States ... from

recognizing that bright line, we will have turned down that dark stairway," Whitehouse said. "I cannot stand for that. I will oppose this nomination."

Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin, D-Ill., also a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, followed Whitehouse to the floor to add his opposition to the tally.

That brings to three of nine committee Democrats who will vote against Mukasey on Tuesday, when the panel considers whether to advance the nomination to the full Senate for confirmation. Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., announced he would vote no earlier this week.

Their announcements resolved a frenzy of behind-the-scenes vote-counting on Mukasey, whose nomination seemed assured just two weeks ago. Key Democrats, and the committee's ranking Republican, were staying mum.

Even his chief Democratic patron, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York, refused to say



SUSAN WALSH | AP PHOTO

CONFIRMATION: Attorney General-designate Michael Mukasey prepares to testify on Capitol Hill before his Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on his nomination.

whether he would vote for Mukasey next Tuesday during the Judiciary Committee's consideration of the nomination.

"I'm not going to comment on Judge Mukasey here. I'm read-

ing the letter, I'm going over it," Schumer told reporters yesterday, hours after the retired federal judge submitted more than 170 pages of elaboration on his positions.

Diplomats rebel against mandatory service in Iraq

U.S. State department's decision to send its employees to Baghdad is being called 'potential death sentence'

By Matthew Lee
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Several hundred U.S. diplomats vented anger and frustration yesterday about the State Department's decision to force foreign service officers to take jobs in Iraq, with some likening it to a "potential death sentence."

In a contentious hour-long town-hall meeting, they peppered officials responsible for

the order with often hostile complaints about the largest diplomatic call-up since Vietnam. Announced last week, it will require some diplomats — under threat of dismissal — to serve at the embassy in Baghdad and in reconstruction teams in outlying provinces.

Many expressed serious concern about the ethics of sending diplomats against their will to serve in a war zone, where the embassy staff is largely confined

"I'm sorry, but basically that's a potential death sentence and you know it. Who will raise our children if we are dead or seriously wounded?"

Jack Croddy | Senior Foreign Service Officer

to the protected "Green Zone," and safety outside the area is uncertain while a review of the department's use of private security contractors to protect its staff is under way.

"Incoming is coming in every day, rockets are hitting the Green Zone," said Jack Croddy, a senior foreign service officer who once worked as a political adviser with NATO forces.

He and others confronted Foreign Service Director General Harry Thomas, who approved the move to "directed assignments" late last Friday to make up for a lack of volunteers

willing to go to Iraq. "It's one thing if someone believes in what's going on over there and volunteers, but it's another thing to send someone over there on a forced assignment," Croddy said. "I'm sorry, but basically that's a potential death sentence and you know it. Who will raise our children if we are dead or seriously wounded?"

His remarks were met with loud and sustained applause from the approximately 300 diplomats at the meeting.

Thomas responded by saying the comments were "filled with inaccuracies."

HOUSING FAIR 2007

Where else can you get all of your housing questions answered at one time!

"I am trying to keep my luxury expenses at a minimum. Are there any rentals that offer free internet?"

TUESDAY, NOV. 6
10:30-2:30
Bowen-Thompson Student Union
Lenhart Grand Ballroom

TALK TO

Rental Mgmt. Companies
Office of the Dean of Students
Office of Residence Life
Student Legal Services
Student Money Mgmt.
BG City Department's
Wood County Health Dept.
Fair Housing Center

SPONSORED BY

Off-Campus Student Services
Student Legal Services

CONTACT INFO

419 372-2843
offcampus@bgsu.edu
www.bgsu.edu/offices
/sa/offcampus



BGSU

THE BG NEWS SUDOKU								
		2		4	8	1		
			2	1			7	
	5	4		7				
				6		5		
3	2	9	8					1
			9	2	1		8	
9		5				2		
2	3	1	7	8	6	9		
		7		9	2		1	

SUDOKU

To play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved. Just use logic to solve

8	1	5	2	6	5	2	9	7
7	5	6	9	8	2	1	5	2
2	9	2	7	1	5	8	6	
5	8	2	1	2	6	9	7	5
1	7	9	2	5	8	6	2	5
6	2	5	5	9	7	8	1	2
2	5	8	6	2	9	7	5	1
9	2	7	5	1	2	5	6	8
5	6	1	8	7	5	2	2	9

Create and solve your Sudoku puzzles for FREE.

Play Super Sudoku and win prizes at:

PRIZESUDOKU.COM

The Sudoku Source of "The BG News"

NASA under criticism for not reporting runway safety survey

By Christine Simmons
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Abandoning its secrecy claims, NASA promised Congress yesterday it will reveal results of an unprecedented federal aviation survey which found that aircraft near collisions, runway interference and other safety problems occur far more often than previously recognized.

Provoking broad criticism, NASA had said previously it was withholding the information

because it feared it would upset air travelers and hurt airline profits. NASA cited those reasons in refusing to turn over the survey data to The Associated Press, which sought the information over 14 months under the Freedom of Information Act.

"We did say that, and that was the wrong thing to have said," NASA's administrator, Michael Griffin, testified during an oversight hearing. "I apologize. ... People make mistakes. This was a mistake."

THE CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

WISHES TO REMIND MOTORISTS OF THE REGULATIONS PROHIBITING PARKING ON CERTAIN STREETS DURING SNOW, ICE OR SLEET CONDITIONS.

The regulations prohibit parking on the designated streets (including all cul-de-sacs) during "Snow Emergencies." A "Snow Emergency" can be declared if snow, ice, or sleet is forecast, and in any case will automatically become effective without a declaration when the snow depth reaches two inches (2").

When a Snow Emergency is declared the news media will be advised. The declaration will contain the effective time of the emergency. If snow reaches a depth of two inches without a Snow Emergency having been declared, the police desk will be able to advise the official time at which snow reached the two inch depth.

If a Snow Emergency becomes effective between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., motorists have two hours in which to remove their vehicles from the designated streets.

If the Snow Emergency becomes effective between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., motorists have until 9:00 a.m. to remove their vehicles from the designated streets.

Vehicles remaining on the designated streets in violation of the regulations are subject to being towed at owner expense. If a particularly bad storm is forecast, additional streets may be designated in the declaration of emergency. If this should happen, every effort will be made to notify the news media and to post temporary "NO PARKING" signs.

The designated streets are called "SNOW STREETS" and are printed below. "SNOW STREET" signs have been erected on snow streets. It is pointed out, however, that the absence of signs will not relieve motorists of responsibility for improper parking.

Although the City will make every effort to inform the public of the existence of probable development of weather conditions requiring removal of motor vehicles from snow streets, motorists are still responsible for determining probable or existing weather conditions and removing their vehicles if required by the regulations.

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF SNOW STREETS:

NORTH-SOUTH STREETS

Buttonwood Avenue- West Wooster Street to Sand Ridge Road
Campbell Hill Road- From East Wooster Street southerly within corporation limits
Church Street- Sand Ridge Road to Clay Street
Dunbridge Road- East Poe Road to Route 6
Enterprise Street- Poe Road to Palmer Ave.
Haskins Road- West Wooster Street to Northern Corporation limits
Grove Street- Poe Road to Sand Ridge Road
Lafayette Boulevard- Entire length
Larchwood Drive- Entire length
Maple Street- Conneaut Ave. to Sand Ridge Road
Martindale Road- Pearl Street to Melrose Street
Mercer Road- Scott Hamilton to South Terminus
North College Drive- Ridge Street to Newton Road
Prospect Street- Napoleon Road to East Poe Road
Summit Street- Poe Road to Napoleon Road
Stonegate Boulevard- West Wooster Street to Sheffield Drive
Tamarac Lane- Entire Length
Wintergarden Road- Sand Ridge Road to West Poe Road

EAST-WEST STREETS

Bishop Road- North Main Street to Brim Road
Clay Street- North Main Street to North Grove street
Clough Street- South Main Street to eastern terminus in Stadium View Apt. complex
Conneaut Avenue- North Grove Street to Mitchell Road
Court Street- North Grove Street to Thurstin Avenue
Gypsy Lane Road- Sand Ridge Road to Dunbridge Road
Industrial Parkway- Entire length
Lehman Avenue- Entire length
East Merry Avenue- Thurstin Avenue to Mercer Road
Pearl Street- Entire Length
Research Drive- Entire length
Sand Ridge Road- South Main Street to Western Corporation Limits
Scott Hamilton- Bentwood to Campbell Hill Rd.
Sheffield Drive- West End to Wintergarden Road
Wallace Avenue- North Grove to Haskins Rd.
Woodbridge Boulevard- Entire Length
Woodland Circle- Entire Length
Wooster Street- Western corporation limits to Eastern Corporation Limits except that parking is permitted at parking meters during the hours of parking meter operation in the 100 block of East Wooster Street and the 100 block of West Wooster Street unless within the corporation limits specifically prohibited in a Declaration of Snow Emergency
Wren Road- Entire Length

CUL-DE-SACS AT THE ENDS OF THE FOLLOWING:

Alberta Circle	Devonshire Street	Manitoba Drive
Arlington Court	Dogwood Court	Melrose Court
Baone Court	Erie Court	Monroe Court
Brownwood Court	Fairdale Avenue	Oakwood Court
Brownwood Drive	Hamilton Court	Partridge Lane
Carol Road	Hickory Court	Peachtree Court
Charles Street	Hunter Court	Picardie Court
Cherry Hill Drive	Jacqueline Place	Ranch Court
Clark Street	John Court	Reeves Court
Clearwater Circle	Keil Court	Robin Court
Cobblestone Lane	Leelanford Circle	Rosewood Court
Country Club Drive	Madison Court	Saint Annes Court
Dakota Court		



CORRECTIONAL CRAFTS



MATTHEW HASHIGUCHI | AP PHOTO

ART: Jason Cole, left, dabs at wet glue while helping Dwayne Dillinger construct a jewelry box during an art session at the Allen Correctional Institution in Lima, Ohio, yesterday. Cole is an inmate who works as an aide for the art program, which is designed to be therapeutic for the institution's inmates.

Chrysler lays off thousands to cut costs for private ownership

By Dee-Ann Durbin
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Chrysler LLC began laying off thousands of salaried workers yesterday as part of an effort to slash costs in the company's new era of private ownership, a spokesman said.

The cuts won't end there. Chrysler planned to announce today that the third shift at the Toledo North plant in Ohio will

be eliminated in the first quarter of 2008, a reduction of 750 jobs.

The Toledo plant makes the Jeep Liberty and wasn't part of recent contract talks between the United Auto Workers union and Chrysler because it has a separate contract.

Chrysler spokesman Mike Aberlich said about one-third of the company's temporary workers will be laid off in the next few months.

Bomb scare causes I-75 to close yesterday

CINCINNATI (AP) — Authorities temporarily closed Interstate 75 in both directions just north of Cincinnati yesterday afternoon because of a suspicious object.

The freeway reopened after more than two hours, with traffic moving slowly before the evening rush hour. Police said an evacuation of the immediate area was canceled, but they didn't immediately release details of what was found.

Earlier, Lockland police Lt. Terrence Wilkerson said an employee of a trucking company called police after he spotted what he suspected was a pipe bomb in a nearby lot.

The Hamilton County bomb squad and other emergency and fire officials went to the scene, the area was evacuated and nearby Lockland schools were dismissed early, police said.

The freeway was closed in both directions, mainly in the area called the Lockland Split where northbound and southbound I-75 traffic is separated by part of the city, about eight miles north of downtown Cincinnati. Traffic was rerouted to other freeways in and around Cincinnati.

Lockland is about eight miles north of downtown Cincinnati.

HELP WANTED

Starting Salary \$8 per hour
Weekend and Evenings
10 - 15 Hours Per Week

Constant Cleaning and Customer Service.
Must Be Self Motivated and Very Dependable.
Looking for Year-round, Long-term Employee.

Please Send Resume and References To:

Manager
P.O. Box 1143
Bowling Green, OH 43402

NOT ALL APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED.

Now Leasing for Second Semester!

Mid Am Manor
641 Third St.
702 Third St.
839 Fourth St.

Charlestown Apts.
710 Scott Hamilton
730 Scott Hamilton



Call to make an appointment today!
Mid Am Management
641 Third #4 BG
352-4380
midam@verizon.net

Ivywood Apts.
1 1/2 Blocks From Campus

Studios &
1 Bedrooms:

Studios: from \$309
1 Bedrooms: from \$435

C/A, Pets Welcome
On Site Laundry
Private Entrance/Patio
Short Term Leases Avail

419-352-7891

E.H.O.

Now Hiring

Now hiring wait staff and entertainers

5801 Telegraph Rd. Toledo, Ohio 43612
419.476.6640

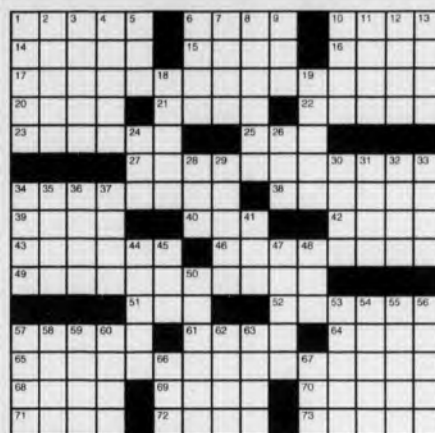
Toledo's #1 Spot for adult entertainment
www.platinumshowgirls.com

platinum
SHOWGIRLS

The Daily Crossword Fix

brought to you by

DiBenedetto's



ACROSS

1 Pares down
6 Webber play
10 Dines
14 Tippy vessel
15 Curved molding
16 Fencer's foil
17 Start of definition of a scholar
20 Irritate
21 And others, briefly
22 Poster star
23 Miss a step
25 Simile center
27 Part 2 of definition
34 Light lager
38 Remove cargo
39 Coll. course
40 Cave denizen
42 Extra dry
43 Chocolate browns
46 Amicable
49 Part 3 of definition
51 Made a lap

52 Wildcatter, e.g.
57 nous (confidentially)
61 Soviet news agency
64 First-class
65 End of definition
68 Terrible ruler?
69 Popeye's ___ Pea
70 Great brilliance
71 Engrossed
72 Shooting marbles
73 Approaches

37 Overwhelm with flat-
tery
41 Three in Italy
44 Item of value
45 Rwy. stop
47 Concise concession
48 QB Manning
50 North American capi-
tal
53 Spear
54 Dough
55 Sadat of Egypt
56 Brooding places
57 Bahrain ruler
58 PBS program
59 Lobster pot
60 Big budget item
62 From the start
63 Females of the spe-
cies
66 DDE's predecessor
67 Barbie's ex

ANSWERS



DiBenedetto's
PASTA & SUBS

28 years of great
Pasta & Subs

1432 E. Wooster, BG
(419) 352-4663
-delivery available-

Hours: 11am - 9pm Monday - Saturday
Delivery 11am-9pm Monday - Saturday

Travel

****#1 Spring Break Website!** 4 & 7 night trips to BahamaPartyCruise, PanamaCity, Acapulco, Cancun and more. Low prices guaranteed. Group discounts for 8+. Book 20 people, get 3 free trips! Campus reps needed. www.StudentCity.com or 800-2931445.

Spring Beak '08. The Ultimate Party Lowest prices. www.sunsplashtours.com. 1-800-426-7710.

Spring Break 2008 Sell Trips, Earn Cash and Go Free. Call for group discounts. Best Prices Guaranteed! Info/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com

Personals

Bellydance-Kundalini Yoga at Radiance Mind body studio. Come get your bliss fix with our fabulous classes. Located at 437 S. Main St. Rm. 3. Call 419-217-6690 or email laurakshakti@gmail.com for class schedule.

www.terror@thewestwood.com
Haunted school. Thursday college ID \$8.00. Rudolph, Ohio

Help Wanted

!BARTENDING! up to \$300/day No exp. necessary. Training provided. Call 800-965-6520 ext. 174.

Cats desperately seeking house keeper, 10 hrs. wk. We're flexible, fit it around your schedule. Need own transp., about 2 mi. from campus. \$8/hr. Contact lmandle@bgsu.edu

Child care needed in our Perrysburg home. M, W, F, 8:15 - 5:15. Reliable transp. & child care exp. necessary. m.childcare@hotmail.com

Earn \$800-\$3200 a month to drive brand new cars with ads placed on them. www.AdCarClub.com

Nanny/house keeper wanted for 2 charming young men. \$7/hr., flexible hrs. for enthusiastic & motivated woman to come into our Perrysburg home. Call Jane 419-261-7983, jdsalle@bex.net

Help Wanted

Needed conscientious & dependable people for carpet cleaning crew. Call 419-352-2012.

For Sale

Laptop for sale. Toshiba 1.9 GHZ Carrying bag. Router included. \$700 OBO. 330-883-8577.

For Rent

** Avail. now. Rooms. \$225 mo. 4 bdrm. free internet. cartyrentals.com Call 419-353-0325.

08-09 school year listings avail. Also Jan 08 units avail. See CartyRentals.com \$5 WEB/call 419-353-0325

1 bdrm. house in Haskins, 7 miles from BGSU. \$425 mo. plus util. & dep. 419-308-1249.

2 & 3 bdrm. apt. on Manville next to water tower 419-352-5239

A WONDERFUL house to share, on campus! LOTS of room. Non-smoker. Pets & young children most welcome. Fenced yard, garage, washer, dryer, 2 living rooms, spacious kitchen, quiet, convenient location, membership to health club included! Come see it, you won't be disappointed. 352-9999.

Available 2nd semester. Large, 1 bedroom. N. Enterprise. \$375 month. 313-575-6481

Available Second Semester 2 or 1 bdrm. at 800 Third St. Call 419-354-9740.

FOR RENT for the next school year 2-3 bdrm. houses. 2 efficiencies. 1 lg. 3 bdrm. apt. Close to BGSU. 419-601-3225

Houses & Apartments 12 month leases only S. Smith Contracting, LLC 419-352-8917 - 532 Manville Ave. Office open 10 - 2 M - F www.bgapartments.com

CINEMARK
The Best Seat In Town

Located at the Woodland Mall - N. Main St. 354-0558

Tonights Movies
Students Pay
\$2.00
Thursday
w/ Student ID

SAW VI (R) 4:20 PM, 7:20 PM, 10:15 PM
The Kingdom (R) 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 10:00 PM
30 Days of Night (R) 4:05 PM, 7:05 PM, 9:55 PM
Gone Baby Gone (R) 4:10 PM, 7:10 PM, 10:05 PM
The Cornbreads (PG-13) 10:10 PM
The Game Plan (PG) 4:15 PM, 7:15 PM

Times in () Show Thurs. only

CINEMA 5
Schedule Good for 10/26/07 - 11/1/07

American Gangster (R) (1:00 PM), 4:25 PM, 7:55 PM

Bee Movie (PG) (1:20 PM), 4:05 PM, 7:15 PM (10:00 PM)

30 Days of Night (R) (1:30 PM), 4:35 PM, 7:30 PM, (10:15 PM)

SAW VI (R) (1:40 PM), 4:45 PM, 7:40 PM, (10:10 PM)

The Kingdom (R) (1:10 PM), 4:15 PM, 7:00 PM, (9:55 PM)

Times in () Show Sat., Sun. only

Times in () Show Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun. only

*Must be 17 to purchase tickets or be accompanied by parent or legal guardian

Sign-up for Show Time email at www.cinemark.com

Showtimes available at cinemark.com

THREE COURSE

Early
Supper

FRIED TILAPIA
PASTA FLORENTINE
FRIED SHRIMP
VEGETARIAN LASAGNA
PECAN CHICKEN
CHOPPED SIRLOIN

Mon.-Fri. \$9.95 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Sam's
RESTAURANT

419-353-2277
163 S. Main - Bowling Green

Torn solar wing threatens power system, future work

By Marcia Dunn
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA canceled today's spacewalk to inspect a snarled joint for a set of solar panels and instead instructed its orbiting astronauts to go out a day later to try to fix a torn solar wing.

The newly ripped wing is now the more pressing of the two problems at the international space station, both of which involve the crucial power system and threaten to disrupt future construction work.

NASA fears the damage could worsen and the wing could lose all power-collecting capability and become unstable. If that happened, the wing would have to be junked, said NASA's space station program manager, Mike Suffredini.

"We've made it a priority to go repair it," Suffredini said yesterday.

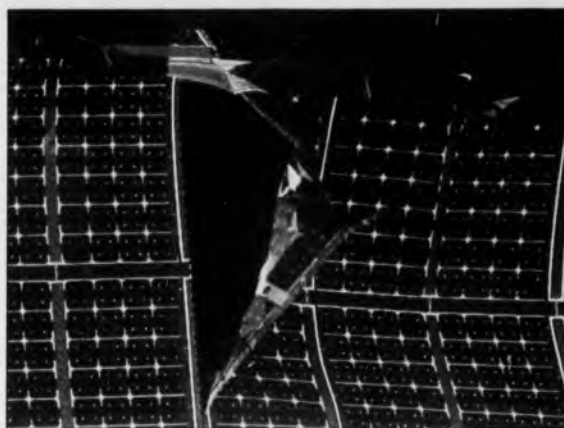
Engineers scrambled to put together a plan for a spacewalk

as early as tomorrow to tackle the wing, which remains partially deployed. It ripped in two places as it was being unfurled by astronauts aboard the linked shuttle-station complex Tuesday, and a hinge may have been yanked and partially ripped.

Suffredini said engineers suspect the wing became snagged on a support for one of the wing's guide wires. They do not want to reel it in to make it easier to access for spacewalkers, for fear it could be further damaged.

The torn section of the wing cannot be reached with the space station's 58-foot robot arm. So NASA plans to attach the shuttle inspection boom to the station's robot arm, and put Scott Parazynski on the boom to free the snagged part of the wing.

It helps that Parazynski is tall — 6-foot-2 — and has long arms. NASA doesn't want him bumping the wing or touching its sunlight-



SOLAR ARRAY: This image shows the damage done by astronauts aboard the international space station on Tuesday. The next shuttle flight could be delayed if the problem is not fixed.

collecting blankets. There would be no need to mend the tears.

"It's not really very far outside of our scope of experience, and

I'm comfortable that it's something we're going to be able to put together," said flight director Derek Hassmann.

PARDEE

From Page 4

he is so badly out of shape. I will ask him when he grew such an uncouth goatee.

I will ask him why he tried to bite his fingernails through the costume. You're supposed to be smarter than that, Spidey.

I hope I don't offend him, though. There's still a good chance I'm sitting next to the honest-to-goodness superhero.

Still, why would Spider-Man look like such a schlub?

I guess the only times I've seen Spider-Man previously were in comics and movies. Maybe those aren't terribly reliable.

Maybe this is what Spider-Man really looks like when he's not being photoshopped into some twisted body shape that the media keeps pushing on us.

It doesn't make it any less disappointing, though.

Send responses to this column to theneus@bgnews.com.

WONDER

From Page 4

staying true to one's own ideas. It may come across as being a bit ambiguous, but one should be able to find a "happy zone" in between respect for personal views and widespread issues and ideologies. In doing this, one can (fortunately) avoid the plague of apathy, indifference and disregard, which afflicts many teenagers and college students.

Although it may sound contradictory, acquiring a greater understanding of, and respect for, one's own personal beliefs (with a healthy dose of "cautious skepticism" included) can allow one to become more open-minded about opposing issues due to the newfound knowledge of why and how opinions are formed in the first place.

Through doing so, we can all become more tolerant and respectful of each other's beliefs, all the while giving apathy and narrow-mindedness well-deserved kicks in their respective faces (Isn't that great? You get to better yourself and kick something!)

Long story short: Keep your mind open to new ideas, know your beliefs, respect others' views and form your own opinions as well.

Send responses to this column to theneus@bgnews.com.

MARISHA

From Page 4

days, and risk putting another nail in the coffin?

This is not to say FEMA has performed inadequately under the current circumstances in California. However, the fact it is manipulating the American media and the American public is not right. Rather than conducting a legitimate press conference that would help the public draw its own conclusions about the answers to questions asked by real reporters, FEMA has denied the public that opportunity.

In a statement released to real members of the press, Johnson stated, "Our intent was to provide useful information and be responsive to the many questions we have received." Wait, how are you providing useful information?

The "useful information" was simply positive reinforcement of FEMA's efforts, and the opinions of the staff members. Obviously the questions the agency had received were so important that it didn't want members of the press ruining it with incorrect phrasing, so it took the responsibility of asking the questions itself.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff (who oversees FEMA) called the event "one of the dumbest, and one of the most inappropriate things I've seen since I've been in government."

I can't help but imagine that the mishandling of the Katrina preparation and recovery is another one of; if not the single most inappropriate things Chertoff has seen.

If not, I'm not sure if I want to know what was worse. For the record, according to CNN, when Chertoff made this statement in a press conference, The Associated Press was the only media outlet invited.

Some lessons are never learned.

In 2005, Sony Pictures was court-ordered to pay \$5 to each person who attended the films in question. Maybe FEMA should take action rather than backpedaling as Sony did and the agency is doing now. As Bob Schieffer of CBS News stated on Face The Nation, "As part of a massive new PR campaign, [FEMA] might even consider taking the PR staff from behind their desks and sending them to deliver food and water to the fire victims."

That would certainly be one heck of a job for the agency to do, as long as it doesn't perform the same stunt again.

Send responses to this column to theneus@bgnews.com.



Your digital world



Your parent's digital world

There's no comparison. You're part of the most technologically advanced generation in history. Them? Not so much. So make sure you take full advantage with AT&T's MEdia™ Max Unlimited. You can text, send pics, IM, access the wireless Web and even stream videos as much as you want. It's unlimited, people.

What can AT&T do for your digital world?

att.com/digitalworld

